



State Senator **GILDA Z. JACOBS** **D-14th Senate District**



Office: Room 1015, Farnum Bldg., P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 373-7888, Toll-Free: (888) 937-4453, E-Mail: SenGJacobs@senate.michigan.gov

Committees: Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform (Minority Vice Chair); Families and Human Services (Minority Vice Chair); Government Operations; Health Policy; Legislative Council (Alternate)

Biography: Democrat, of Huntington Woods, elected to the Michigan Senate in 2002 after serving two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives, where she made history as the first woman Floor Leader in either house of the Legislature.

Senator Jacobs was elected chair of the 12th Congressional District Democratic Committee in 1999. Prior to serving in the Legislature, she served as an Oakland County Commissioner from 1995 to 1998. She also is distinguished as the first woman elected to the Huntington Woods City Commission, serving from 1981 to 1994. She was the Mayor Pro Tem of Huntington Woods in 1993-1994.

In addition to her civic leadership, Senator Jacobs served as Development Director for JARC, a Jewish association for residential care for persons with developmental disabilities. Prior to working for JARC, Senator Jacobs was administrative assistant to State Senator Doug Ross. She also worked as a special education teacher in the Madison School District. Senator Jacobs' extensive community service includes having served as a board member of the South Oakland NAACP, Anti-Defamation League, Neighborhood Project, the Tri-Community Coalition, and the Women's Division of Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, as a member of the Huntington Woods Friends of the Library, Huntington Woods Residents Association, National Council of Jewish Women, Berkley High School PTO, the Oakland County Center for Fair Housing Advisory Board, and as a human rights activist for the Anti-Defamation League. She also is a former vice-chair of the Oakland County Democratic Party and a former member of the Berkley Schools Strategic Plan Implementation Committee.

Honors received by Senator Jacobs include the "Wonder Woman Award" from the Women's Survival Center, the Larry Pernick Award from the Michigan Democratic County Commissioners Association, the "Do Something Wonderful for Children" Legislative Award from Michigan's Children, and the 2002 "Woman of the Year Award" from the Na'Amat Greater Detroit Council for her dedicated efforts on behalf of women and children. Senator Jacobs was a Fellow at the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Development. Recently, the National Democratic Institute selected her to travel to Bosnia where she trained political candidates. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Senator Jacobs received her Bachelor of Science degree with distinction in education

in 1970 and a Masters Degree in behavioral sciences in education in 1971. Her family includes husband John, adult daughters Jessica Jacobs and Rachel Jacobs Allen, son-in-law Michael Allen, and a politically savvy dog, Jake.

